

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following paragraph before “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION” on page 1:

**RELATED APPLICATIONS:**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/266,691, filed on October 9, 2002, entitled “POWER SUPPLY UNIT, DISTRIBUTED POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE LOADED THEREWITH,” which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,645, filed on February 27, 2002, entitled “POWER SUPPLY UNIT, DISTRIBUTED POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE LOADED THEREWITH,” both of which are allowed. The disclosures of the above-identified applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Please replace the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE with the following paragraph:

A power supply unit with improved charge/discharge operation for use in distributed power supply system or electric vehicles. The power supply unit includes a storage battery comprising a plurality of circuits connected in series. Each of the plurality of circuits includes a first cell group and a second cell group connected in parallel. The first cell group includes lithium secondary cells or electrical double layer capacitors. The second cell group utilizes an electrolyzable electrolytic solution, or is capable of generating recombinable gas. The second cell group may include lead cells, nickel hydrogen cells, nickel cadmium cells and/or fuel cells. A charger/discharger is provided for controlling charge/discharge of the storage battery adapted to charge the storage battery up to a voltage at which the electrolytic solution of the second cell group is electrolyzed, or to a voltage at which the generated gas is recombined.